



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

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PLACER COUNTY H1N1 INFLUENZA INFECTION CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMS AND MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS – October 5, 2009

Placer County Public Health is issuing the following infection control recommendations to EMS and Medical First Responders regarding pandemic H1N1 Influenza:

- Any patient or staff with an influenza-like illness (ILI), meaning an apparent or measured fever over 100°F with cough or other flu-like symptoms, should be considered as a suspect H1N1 case.
- All patients should be assessed for potential ILI according to the criteria above. If symptoms of ILI are present, responders should don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator, gown, gloves, and eye/face protection, before contact with patient.
- Where a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) has advised potential for ILI, or when conducting interfacility transports where the patient is suspected or confirmed of having H1N1 influenza, PPE should be donned before any contact with the patient.
- The number of personnel exposed to close contact with the patient should be limited to those essential for care and transport. For H1N1, close contact is defined as any care activities conducted within six feet of the patient. Personnel should wash hands or use an alcohol based disinfectant before and after contact with patients.
- The ill person should wear a surgical mask (if tolerated). People who accompany the ill person while being transported should be limited to only those essential for the patient's care and emotional well-being and should utilize PPE and hand sanitizer.
- Ventilation of the vehicle patient compartment with outside air should be maximized to the extent practical, while maintaining appropriate temperature and patient comfort, using the fresh air setting on the vehicle's ventilation system, windows, etc.
- Any staff with ILI should be excluded from work for 7 days or 24 hours after the end of the fever (and after the end of the use of any fever-reducing medications), whichever is longer.
- EMS and medical first responder agencies should take every measure necessary to assure maximal vaccination of all staff against both seasonal flu and H1N1 flu.
- Occupational Health Practitioners interested in giving 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine need to submit their estimates and requests for H1N1 vaccine on www.calpanflu.org. Both Seasonal and H1N1 vaccination should be offered to staff according to ACIP guidelines.

Emergency transport agencies and medical first responders can contact Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS Agency at (916) 625-1702 or Placer County Public Health at (530) 889-7141 with questions or support needs. Information about H1N1 influenza in healthcare settings may also be of value, and is available from Placer County, the California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control at these websites:

http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/hhs/community_health/H1N1%20Swine%20Flu.aspx

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/H1N1UpdatedRecforHealthCareSettings.pdf>

www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_ems.htm